

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th July at 7.30pm *(to be approved at the Parish Council meeting to be held 9th September 2026)*

Present: Cllr B Holmes (Chair), Cllr B Tanham (Vice Chair), Cllr A Heffernan, Cllr J Nunn, Cllr J Hall

Also Present: Clerk C Davidson, 3 members of the public

138/26 **Apologies**

None

139/26 **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th May were approved and signed by Chairman.

140/26 **Declaration of Interest and Applications for Dispensation**

Cllr B Tanham declared an interest in Agenda item 9 Canal as owner of part of towpath. Cllr Tanham can take part in discussion but not vote.

141/26 **Public Participation**

- a) The architect, Allison Powell, attended the meeting to discuss the planning application submitted on behalf of her client 2026/0862/HOU Passing Winds. Councillors noted that the Parish Council had objected to the proposal at the previous meeting and that Ms Powell had subsequently provided a written rebuttal to the Council's comments.

Before inviting Ms Powell to speak, the Chair read a short statement. She explained that, out of courtesy, respect, and in the interests of transparency, the Council wished to make clear that it had seen not only Ms Powell's rebuttal to the Council's objection but also her email thread to the Planning Dept in which she criticised the Parish Council for not having "the correct approach", and had also seen an email sent to the Clerk reiterating that causing a referral would add time and expense to the process. Councillors recorded that the statements made in the email thread did not reflect the Council's position and were inconsistent with the formal comments submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

The Council reiterated that it is a Statutory Consultee and the objection was based solely on material planning considerations relevant to the application and confirmed that its responses are drafted in accordance with established planning guidance and statutory responsibilities.

The Chair stated that Councillors were very surprised by the lack of professionalism demonstrated in those emails and that the Council would

follow up separately. She emphasised, however, that the Council regarded those issues and the planning application as two entirely separate matters, and that Councillors would listen to Ms Powell's presentation on the application with open minds.

Ms Powell offered a brief apology before outlining the design rationale behind the proposal. She explained several elements of the planning design, including the intended layout and use of the site. Councillors listened to the presentation and asked a small number of questions to clarify aspects of the design and the reasoning behind specific choices.

- b) 2 members of the public were in attendance to raise their concerns about recent Anti-Social Behaviour and damage to the Millenium Field and show their support for the Parish Council initiative to install CCTV and also to offer help at the 'Millenium Field Working Party' on 18th July.

142/26 **Reports from District Councillors**

- a) Westmorland and Furness Councillors were not in attendance and had sent their apologies prior to the meeting.

143/26 **Planning**

- a) 2026/0862/HOU Passing Winds, Sedgwick, LA8 0JU

Following the Council's previous discussion and objection to the application at the last meeting, Councillors noted the rebuttal submitted by the architect and heard her presentation at this meeting. After listening to the explanation of the design rationale and reviewing the rebuttal, the Council agreed that its previously submitted objections remained appropriate and would not be changed.

- b) 2026/1037/FPA Land Burton Road, Natland – Storey Homes Development

Although this large-scale proposal for over 400 dwellings lies outside the parish boundary, Councillors noted the likely impact on Sedgwick in terms of increased traffic movements and pressure on existing infrastructure and services. In light of these concerns, the Parish Council agreed to submit an objection to the application.

144/26 **Highways/Footpaths**

- a) There have been some patch repairs taken place around the area
- b) It was noted that the Parish Council has responded to the recent consultation regarding speed and supported the proposed reduction in speed limits around Crosscrake.

145/26 **Playground/Millennium Field**

- a) Cllr Nunn presented the monthly report and pointed out the maintenance jobs required. There was discussion about the fence on the canal boundary and it was agreed to consider removing and replacing with hedging if funding could be obtained. Cllr Heffernan would do some research on this and report back at next meeting.
- b) A site visit was undertaken by a CCTV engineer, who subsequently provided recommendations and a quotation for the required equipment and installation. The cost submitted was £1,619.94 plus VAT, with further expenditure anticipated for the purchase of a suitable lamppost and labour to dig a trench for the cabling.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk would obtain one further comparative quotation, although R U Safe remains the preferred supplier. It was further agreed that the Clerk would explore potential funding opportunities to support the purchase of this equipment.

The Council also agreed to proceed with the installation and delegated authority to the Clerk to instruct the preferred supplier prior to the next meeting, subject to the comparative quotation not identifying any material concerns.

- c) The Working Party is arranged for the 18th July. Bark chippings had been ordered and would be delivered on the 16th. Cllr Holmes will arrange to purchase other materials required as well as arrange access to Hall for use of toilets and water.
- d) It was agreed that the Clerk would instruct the ROSPA inspector to carry out this year's play area inspection. The Clerk will obtain comparative quotations for next year's inspection to ensure best value.

146/26 **Safeguarding Report**

Nothing to report

147/26 **Finance**

- a) Clerk confirmed the Unity Trust Bank account was now open and the signatories had now signed the authorisation letter to start the account switch.
- b) Note the bank balances Current Account: £15,225.42 (31.5.26)
Reserve Account: £22,749.51
- c) The following payments were authorised:

Parish Clerk Salary May/June	£513.76
Parish Clerk Expenses March/Apr	£101.89
Microsoft Subscription	£84.99

HMRC PAYE	£128.44
Cumbria Landscaping	£240.00
D & C Atkinson	£206.00
James Park	£700.00
Printing Plus	£102.00

- d) It was agreed to set up a monthly standing order for the Clerk's salary and HMRC PAYE, in accordance with the Financial Regulations for monthly salary payments, once the Unity Trust Bank account has been opened.

148/26 **Parish Council Laptop**

Due to issues with the current laptop The Council authorised the purchase of a new laptop for Clerk use, up to a value of £400. It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase the laptop and add it to the Council's asset register.

149/26 **Newsletter**

The Summer Newsletter had now been distributed and an Autumn newsletter would be produced later in the year

150/26 **Correspondence**

Correspondence received and circulated to Councillors. This included:

CALC/NALC news

Westmorland and Furness Council updates

Local Plan Scoping Consultation

Emails from Allison Powell re Passing Winds planning application.

Councillors noted the correspondence received since the last meeting, including an email from architect Allison Powell relating to the planning application previously considered by the Council. The Council expressed concern regarding the content of the email exchange between Ms Powell and Westmorland & Furness Council, particularly the comments made about the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council would write to Westmorland & Furness Council to raise these concerns formally.

151/26 **Outstanding items**

Item	To be actioned	Update
Casual Vacancy	All	
Insurance Claim	Clerk/Chair	Insurance waiting quotes
Anti Social Behaviour	All	Encourage people to log any incidents with police
Wall Gap – canal	Clerk	Waiting response from landowner
Playground inspection	Clerk/Chair	Inspection to be booked
CCTV Installation	Clerk	Ongoing

152/26 The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th September at 7.30pm

Signed:.....**Date:** 9th September 2026